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Chapter 2: Ancient Pagan Influences

Pagan Influences in Christianity

As the Bible was tampered with by many human hands, it was easy for the external influences from paganism and other religions to trickle into Christianity. The present day Christianity headed by the Church, derived some of its teachings and ethics basically from the Old and New Testaments, which are based mainly on Paul's interpretation, and innovations of various principles from the life and nature of Jesus Christ, and not in accordance with the teachings of Christ himself.

Because of this, the Christian religion up to now is largely based on a Euro-centric perception of God and religion. This Christianity has been greatly influenced by the pre-Christian pagan European festivals and rituals that have nothing to do with the man called "Jesus Christ". A quick search on what is now known as Christianity will reveal that the present day religion of Christianity was founded mainly by Paul and a man known as Apollo, a Jew born in Alexandria.

The religion was then changed, expanded and modified from its Afro–Semitic culture to meet the European political and cultural needs of the Roman converts who adopted Christianity from the preaching of Paul, Timothy and others who disobeyed Jesus Christ after he forbade them from preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles and other pagan nations. The modifications and changes in Christianity started in its early centuries and continued in the reign of King Constantine (272 to 325 AD) and those who came after him, and now the modification and changes in Christianity are done by the Church through the authority of the Pope and the Vatican, the Queen or King of England and other Church authorities appointed by them.

These changes and innovations, which are done by the Church Leaders, were not endorsed or authorized by either God or Jesus Christ, but they are innovations of their own.

Easter Sunday, for instance, is the day of the greatest Christian festivity when Jesus, they say, arose from the dead. On this day, Jesus overcame death and brought a new life to mankind –so goes the belief. Yet this festival and its events had existed thousands of years before the birth of Jesus Christ. So

how could it be possible for the celebration to have any relationship with Jesus Christ? And why has this festivity been brought into Christianity?

A Brief History of Easter Festivity

Easter was the goddess of spring and it was in her honor that the festival of Easter was celebrated annually in ancient Egypt, Greece and Persia towards the end of March and the beginning of April. Documented evidences in European history show that the Saxons of the pre-Christian days used to enjoy their Easter eggs and hot cross buns while worshipping the goddess whom they called Eostre, and it is from this name of the pagan goddess, that the inventors of present Christianity derived what is today called the "Easter festival", which in fact, has nothing to do with a man called Jesus.

In reality, keeping this festival in Christianity was an artful method employed by the Romans and Greeks to immortalize their religious and cultural heritage so as not to be swallowed or destroyed by the religion of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the celebration of the festival with hot cross buns and eggs is not peculiar to modern Christian countries as these celebrations and rituals were observed thousands of years ago by the pagans. This is clear evidence that proves that Christianity is a continuation of that ancient paganism. Now, the very pagans of Europe who converted to Christianity thousands of years ago still continue to worship this goddess of Spring "Eostre" but today in the image of "Jesus Christ" and thus, we see that, there is no doubt that the Easter rituals have nothing to do with the man called Jesus Christ but are instead, the cultural and religious remnants of ancient pagans in Christianity.

According to the world history, the Egyptians and Greeks of olden days did the same; the ancient Egyptians regarded eggs and buns as signs of creation. As Easter falls in spring, which brings life to creation, the ancient Greeks and Egyptians celebrated this bounty with special rituals and brought them to an end by enjoying their eggs and hot cross buns.

The same was happening in the ancient sub-continent of India and ancient Persia (Iran) and up to this time, the festival of Easter is celebrated and known as "Besaakhi" in India while in Iran the same festival and celebration is known as "Nauroz".

According to the "New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Knowledge": "Easter is the Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. The western churches celebrate it on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. The word "Easter" is derived from the name of the goddess of spring, Eostre. Easter can fall on any of 35 days, and the proposal that it should be celebrated on the Sunday after the second Saturday in April each year failed for lack of public support".1

This is another misleading statement. In fact it is another bit of misinformation reported by the above Encyclopedia for if Easter was the goddess of Spring in ancient pagan Europe, then it is clear that this

festivity has nothing to do with the Resurrection of Christ! And the fact that it is celebrated by the western churches on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox is a clear indication that this festivity has nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Rather it is a festivity connected at its roots to those pagan rituals of worshipping the moon, the sun and other heavenly bodies.

That the festivity begins on the first Sunday symbolizes the European pagan tradition of worshipping the sun god Apollo on Sunday. And that the festivity is carried on in accordance with the lunar calculation and during the full moon is a clear indication that the festivity has nothing to do with Jesus Christ. Instead, this festivity is for the same Eostre the goddess of spring whose ancient symbol of existence was the moon, as the sun was for her partner Apollo, the sun god.

The fact that the Easter celebration took place thousands of years before the birth of Jesus Christ is a further proof that this festival and its likes are pagan festivals introduced in Christianity from the Gentiles pagan religious denominations during the time of King Constantine of the Roman Empire around 325 A.D. The king himself was a devoted pagan, as was his entire nation.

The fact that the date of "Easter" has to be fixed by the Lunar Calendar and in accordance with the full moon at the Spring Equinox, clearly shows that this festival has more to do with the worship of some luminary object or heavenly bodies than with any event in the life of a man whom they believe to be their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This view is more authentic as we do not see any Christian denomination fixing the date of Easter using a solar calendar as they do with other rituals and on other Christian sacred days.

Here, I have another evidence to prove "that the celebrations and festivals observed today by modem day Christians are influenced by the ancient pagans who worshipped multiple deities.

The scholars in Christianity speak the truth when they admit that they are unable to ascertain the date of the birth of Jesus Christ, as Jesus was not born on 25th of December: It is enough that *XMas* is the abbreviation of what is known as "Christmas" as X in mathematics represents the unknown. Then, X Mas is the Mass or festival of the unknown deity or unknown personality.

Jesus Christ is an unknown personality in the Old Testament; the man that the Christian thinks to be Jesus Christ, according to the Biblical prophecies his name is Emmanuel, and so it is obvious, historically, that his mother had called him "Emmanuel" and not "Jesus". The name Jesus is a product of European's distortion of the pure name and original religion of the Emmanuel, the Messiah.

They changed the original name of the Messiah to "Jesus" so that, the Messiah with his new and imposed name "Jesus" must represent the cultural, political and the religious dimension of the Europeans.

In the coming pages I will prove to you that Emmanuel is the real name of the man whom they call Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus Christ. You will also understand that "Christ" is not the title of that Emmanuel as the

word "Christ" cannot be translated as "Messiah". The word "Messiah" means "the newly born god" in ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic language, which simply means "a righteous being, who is born to serve the Almighty God, the Creator of all things".

As a matter of fact, it is known in history that Apollo, the sun god and the god of King Constantine was born on the 25th of December and so it was a plan of the King to keep the birthday festival of his pagan favourite sun–god to be adopted in Christianity and hence to continue in the name of the Church and in the name of Jesus Christ.

These are facts from history. Paganism found its way again into what I normally call "Euro-centric Christianity" which simply means the Christianity that originated from Europe. The sun-worshippers of these nations celebrated the birth of their deity known a sun-god on 25'h of December of each year, thousands of years before the birth of Emmanuel or that "mythical fabricated" man known by the Christians as "Jesus Christ". Here again, the date of birth of this sun god of these pagans, which was 25th of December, had been replaced wrongfully with the birthdate of Jesus Christ...!

Therefore, when we say that, many of the important rituals of modern day Christianity have been borrowed or copied from ancient pagan rituals it is an established fact based on concrete and strong evidences. The Christians have no biblical proofs to support the legality of these pre–Christian and pagan rituals, which are now found in their religion.

Thus deviation started and pagan rituals found their way into Christianity gradually due to the political and cultural circumstances of those days and from new converts who were former pagans or worshippers of multiple deities.

The Christians have even changed the Sabbath, which their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ could not. A man whom they call Jesus Christ observed the Sabbath and worshipped on that day. However it was on Saturdays and not on Sundays. So did the apostles of Jesus and the early fathers of the Church, but this custom came to its end when King Constantine of the Roman Empire allegedly converted to Christianity.

As the favourite god of King Constantine previously was Apollo, the sun god, the entire nation during his time was forced to worship on Sunday, as it was the only day to pay tribute to the sun god. Only that now it was done in the name of Jesus Christ.

The sun god was worshipped officially, once a week in the pagan Roman Empire. That day was called 'Sunday', but now Christians worship Christ on the very day that was constitutionally established for the sake of the sun god in the Ancient Pagan Temple of Apollo.

Apollo in Greek and Roman mythologies was one of the most important and powerful gods, he was the 'multi-sided' god of prophecy, purity, spring, music, healing, archery, as well as of shepherds and their flocks.

According to these ancient mythologies, Apollo could punish harshly and he was represented as the Greek ideal of manly youth and beauty. In the last days of ancient mythology, Apollo replaced Helios as the sun god. As the sun god, he was officially worshipped by the Romans on Sunday. Now on Sunday Christians worship Christ thereon instead of Apollo.

Thus Sunday is not God's day, but the day of the sun god and it is not the Church of Jesus Christ, which is adhered to, but the Temple of the sun god. Therefore do not be fooled any more. The light of knowledge has begun to shine in our eyes although it is true that ignorance and credulity will lead to acceptance and reverence of everything in any form.

The Bible says: "...The Sabbath was made for man..." Mark. 2: 27

Paul worshipped on the Sabbath day and not Sunday, "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures..." Acts. 17:2.

In fact, worshipping on the Sabbath day is a law for the Jews and even for the Gentiles, the Bible says: "...and he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks..."Acts. 18: 4.

In the New testament there are no less than 59 references to the Sabbath; the book of Acts alone records about 84 Sabbaths on which the Apostle Paul and his companions held religious gatherings and religious services, yet there is not one word in the entire Bible authorizing Sunday as a day of worship.

It is sad to see that the Christians are still worshipping on Sunday thus imitating the ancient pagans contrary to Jesus and the Apostles.

This is exactly what we have said earlier i.e. that the original Christianity has been changed from its Afro–Semitic religious culture to Euro–centric culture. This had been done to suit the European way and their socio–religious style agreeable to their own desirable aspects of their lives. But our modern day mind in this century of space technology is no longer captive of the fairy tales and absurdities of the medieval days of primitive Europe, which penetrated Christianity during the reign of the Roman Empire about 325 AD.

True Christians ought to obey God and submit to the truth and not to the orders of the Church and Pope. It must be known that, by observing worship on Sundays instead of Saturdays, Christians have deviated from the path of a man they call Jesus Christ and his disciples. The Bible says: "..we ought to obey God rather than men" Acts. 5: 29.

But who among the church leaders cares? They continue to keep prayers on Sundays, the same day on which the Romans who gave them Christianity and Catholicism used to worship their sun god in the pre-Christian era. The Bible rebukes this tradition seriously by saying: "... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition! but in vain they do worship Me, teaching for

doctrines the commandments of men .. " Mark. 7:13-14.

Thus, the tradition of worshipping on Sundays has nothing to do with the teachings of Jesus Christ; rather it is an innovation of the Roman and Greek pagans who converted to Christianity and did not wish to abandon their pagan worshipping day of Sunday for Saturday. This was done politically during the reign of King Constantine.

So the act of not worshipping on the Sabbath day by the Christians is a result of the Romans' efforts in changing the Original Christianity with its Afro–Semitic culture to their pagan Euro–centric culture. And this is why they disobey the Biblical commandment, which says: "...He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not the commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him ..."1 John. 2:4.

Ancient European Folklore

Some of these folklores and absurd tales of medieval Europe, which penetrated into Christianity, can be found in the Bible as follows:

"...The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? And the trees said to the fig tree, 'Come thou, and reign over us'. But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? Then said the trees unto the vine: Come you and reign over us. And the vine said unto them, 'should I leave my vine which cheers God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees'? Then said the trees unto the bramble, Come thou and reign over us. And the bramble said unto the trees, if in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon..." Judges. 9:8–15.

In fact, it is an irrational story. Here above, the trees are calling for their "National Election" to elect their president but it seems that there was no agreement among the trees; but could this be possible? Can the trees talk and communicate with one another concerning the question of leadership and responsibility; all this signifies is that, it is a real fairy tale and ancient tale of the medieval era in Europe and in the world in general.

The Story of the Possessed Man

This is another fairy tale of ancient Europe and Babylon but this time it is concealed under the name of Jesus Christ as follows:

"... And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; And no man could bind him, no, now with chains: because that he

had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

But when he saw Jesus a far off, he ran and worshipped him. And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou son of the most High God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, "come out of the man, thou unclean spirit". And he asked him, what is thy name? And he answered, saying, my name is Legion; for we are many. And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea (they were about two thousand) and were choked in the sea. And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done..." Mark. 5:1–14.

The above passage of the New Testament is one of many ancient folklore-tales and superstitious beliefs of the ancient pagan world. The following are some clarifications from the above absurd folklores in the New Testament.

First, the Gospel tells us in this story that a possessed man became so violently insane that the strongest chains could not restrain him. But we see that this is untrue and is a form of superstition, as certainly in those days there were people who knew how to make strong chains to hold human beings of that nature.

We also have in the Bible the story of Samson. Samson of course, was even stronger than the possessed person of the New Testament, but according to the scripture, the people had found a very strong material to bind Samson, and in this regard, the Bible says:

"...But the Philistines took him!! and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house..." Judges. 16:21.

Where then were the fetters of brass like those, which had been used to bind, Samson and which could have also been used to restrain this possessed man? How could they use fetters of brass to bind Samson and forget to use the same to this person? It is really an illogical account.

Second, we are told in the Bible that the possessed man was cutting himself with stones for years; but how could it be possible for a man to survive having done that for continuously for years? Then, according to this tale, Christ enters into an agreement with the evil spirits that he should not drive them out of the country; instead he accepted their last request, which was to be sent to the herd of swine.

The story thus portrayed Christ as a guilty of the crime of destroying 2,000 swine that belonged to their owners. Jesus here, as a Jew and a man who was well acquainted with the Jewish laws and traditions could not have allowed those swine to be destroyed as they belonged to someone. In accordance with the Jewish traditions, the owner had to be compensated for the loss.

This itself is evidence that this story was not real but a concocted tale! There is another problem with this story; the evil spirits when they entered this man did not result in him choked in the sea, but the same evil spirits having entered the swine made them all run to the se and choked themselves..! Why are we not witnessing similar characteristics and behavior between the affected man and the affected swine?

It is odd to witness the same man whom the evil spirits have possessed gained enough strength that nothing could bind him, even the chains and fetters of iron and brass. Logically, if the sickness is the same, we must witness the same symptoms and behaviour, but we do not see this in the story.

All of these are clear evidence that there are many superstitions and unacceptable pagan legends, stories and rituals that penetrated into Christianity through the influences of the primitive Gentile nations of Europe such as Greece and Rome around 325 AD. The influences also came from other nations of ancient Mesopotamia, i.e. Babylon and Palestine, also from the eastern ancient nations like Egypt, India and Iran thousands of years before the birth of Christ, as we have mentioned earlier.

This is not sheer coincidence, but has something to do with that corruption, distortion, superstitions and pagan influence that were imposed on Christianity by those European and ancient Eastern Pagans thousands of years ago. And here I have another surprise for you.

Christmas - The Birthday of Various Pagan Gods

Christianity has more to answer to on the subject of Christmas. The 25th day of December historically throws a good deal of light on the subject. Research shows that the 25th of December was not the birthday of a man called Jesus Christ but happened to be the birthday of many pagan gods in various mythologies and ancient cultures. Bacchus (the god of Greece), Osiris (the god of Egypt), Attis (the god of Phrygia) and Quetzacoatl (the god of Phoenicia and Mexico) were all born on the 25" of December.

As they were born in the month of December, their parents must have had their marriage on the day of 25th of March. Here again we see the same ancient paganism, which identifies the spring season as the season of resurrection and life. Thus gods are created or conceived in March, the spring season, and they are born in December!

This is why in March not only do we see the festival of Easter being celebrated. In ancient days the pagans believed that it was in the same month that the mothers of gods conceived and this concept had infiltrated Christianity as the Christians have a festival known as "Our Lady's Day" in the month of March in their calendar.

Do these facts need further elaboration? Are these facts not eloquent enough to show that this Euro-centric Christianity, which is preached throughout the world, is in fact a modern type of paganism? It is my belief that everyone who has studied the history of ancient Europe, Egypt and Persia will come to the conclusion that the Church which is attributed to Jesus Christ is indeed the Church of Apollo, the sun god of the Roman Empire.

The fact that many important rituals and festivals of modem day Christianity have their origins from ancient paganism proves that this type of Christianity is Euro-centric Christianity and not that Afro-Semitic Christianity preached and practiced by Emmanuel (Jesus) himself. It is also an indication that modern day Western and American churches are continuation of the same ancient paganism but in a modern way which now includes the name of Jesus Christ and instead of Mithra and Apollo as it did in the religion of the Romans.

Holidays are major events in America and Europe. Most of these holidays are regarded as Christian based or motivated. However, there are very few "Christians" who know the origin of these holidays they hold dear. For example, the Christmas holiday that has more to do with the myths of the ancient pagans has today become a major holiday in America and Europe and the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, in the minds of most Christians there is the assumption that "Christmas" commemorates the birth of infant Jesus Christ although it is well known by Christian scholars that the exact date of the said event of the birth of Jesus is not a matter based on any historical record. In fact it is a hidden reality kept in the shadow of confusion, which has made this event of the birth of Jesus appear extremely dubious in nature.

The twenty-fifth day of December is now accepted as the date of Supra birth although such has not been always been the case. The documented historical facts of the Church prove that at first, the Church used to celebrate Christmas on March 25 for over the first three and half centuries.

Why was this date changed? And who had decreed such change? It was Pope Julian II in the year 345 AD who declared that the commemoration and celebration of Christmas should be observed on December 25th. It is of major importance to inquire why, before Pope Julian's decree, the Christian practice was to celebrate the event of Christmas on March 25th?

Actually, March brings the vernal equinox (as we have mentioned earlier) and the most dramatic rituals of the ancient pagan religion were consummated on or about March 21st, the date of the sun's crossing northward over the equatorial meridian.

In this season every allegorical representation of the mystical cycle of soul's involvement in matter and body came here to the final stage and to victory. The sun's ascent out of darkness of winter symbolizes the souls resurrection from the shroud of death in mortal bodies. This was regarded in pagan culture as "the way of picturing spiritual processes during the birth of spirit".

For the pagans, Spring brings new spirit just as Winter brings the death of plants and natural bodies; cold symbolizes death and the beginning of warmth and sunlight in Spring signify the arrival of life and new spirit in all material bodies.

The Romans allowed this ancient pagan concept into Christianity, and hence, it is in this same spring season that the man whom they call Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Just as Easter the goddess of spring picked up her life back in the very spring season, Jesus of Nazareth also conquered death in spring!

The similitude between the gods of the ancient pagans and Jesus of Christianity cast a lot of doubts on the question of the validity of Christianity and the Church; it is because of this mixing of ancient paganism and Christianity that the intellectuals of today have reason to doubt the validity and authenticity of the teachings of this Euro–centric Christianity.

Sir James Frazier, in his book entitled "The Golden Bough" says the following: "The summer solstice and the winter solstice, are the two great turning-points in the sun's apparent course through the sky, and from the standpoint of primitive man nothing might seem more appropriate than to kindle fires on earth at the two moments when the fire and heat of the great luminaries in heaven begin to wane and wax. Certainly it is that winter solstice which the ancients erroneously attributed to the twenty fifth of December and so they celebrated in antiquity as the birthday of the sun; (during this occasion) festal lights and fire were kindled on this joyful occasion.

Our Christian festival is nothing but a continuation of those solar festivities (of the pagans of Old) under the Christian name; for the ecclesiastical authorities during the third or fourth century saw fit arbitrarily to transfer the nativity of Christ from the sixth of January to the twenty fifth of December; (and this was done) for the purpose of diverting to their lord to worship as the heathen had (worshipped) and paid on that day to the sun-god..." 2

This is how the Europeans distorted the essence of the true religion of Jesus by mixing it with their pagan European culture. Christianity today, as we have said earlier, is a pagan ancient Euro-centric religion, which has little to do with Jesus Christ and his culture and teachings.

More about the Mythologies of December 25th

In ancient Europe and in its pagan mythology, December 25th was originally believed and taken to be the birth date of another sun-God, and January sixth was believed to have been the birth day of the "Son" of God, and so the story and the creed of the pagans were sanctioned and practiced officially in all Christian countries after the approval of the Pope of the time.

December 25th again, was kept as the birthday of "the Son of God", but this time the Son of God is a man called Jesus Christ and not "the son of the sun god" as the new religion now is Christianity and not paganism. Eventually, as you will see here, the Romans continued to adopt their ancient religious culture

governed by their political climate even after their alleged conversion to Christianity during the reign of King Constantine in 325 AD until the present time.

Many pagan customs from the ancient rituals of the Temple of Apollo have penetrated Christianity and these ancient unlawful rituals remain in Christianity until this very day. And many of these pagan concepts have been covered and shielded by the mighty name of Emmanuel the Messiah, whom the Europeans call "Jesus Christ".

It was not until 1840 that the first Christmas tree was brought to England from Germany by Prince Albert soon after his marriage to Queen Victoria. The Bible has condemned these practices of honoring the trees and caves and other luminary objects as they have been borrowed from ancient heathen paganism.

Unfortunately, these trees are now holding the name of Jesus as "Christmas tree" to hide their heathen origin. The Bible condemns this saying: "... Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must seeds be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good..." Jeremiah. 10:2–S.

In fact, honouring these trees is nothing but paganism and you know how we really celebrate Christmas – burning incense, lighting candles and lighting up the houses. However, these days we do not burn our children in the fire. We only allow them to play with it. Some children play with the fire by throwing the fire in the air, but some by shooting and firing at one another in the streets of New York and other cities worldwide due to the Christmas excitement. All of these practices have been borrowed by the Catholic Church from the ancient practices of European heathens and pagans and it is from the Catholic Church that these practices have reached us and spread over the whole world.

The Bible condemns these rituals and regards them as abominations of the heathens when it says:"...For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made also molten images for Ba'alim.

Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hin'nom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathens whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel..." 2 Chronicles. 28:2–3.

The Scripture also says: "... And (he) made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree ..." 2 Kings. 16:3–4.

But unfortunately, all of these types of heathen rituals are still taking place in some Churches and in what is so called "Christmas, Halloween, Easter", and other so called Christian religious festivals. It is for

the reader to make his own assessment.

Jesus Takes Apollo's Throne

King Constantine historically embraced Christianity only for political reasons. This is why in his reign we can see that he preserved everything of ancient paganism in that newly created Church. He also preserved the Easter festival and the festival of 25th of December which then was called Christmas.

The King also allowed many other pagan rituals to be a part of Christianity but he wisely replaced the seat of his pagan god Apollo. Here, King Constantine gave the seat of Apollo from his temple officially to Jesus Christ. But everything else from old paganism and rituals dedicated to other deities was left intact and regarded valid by Constantine and allowed to continue in the name of Christianity.

It should be borne in mind that before the modern archaeological and historical discoveries which came to prove that the Christian beliefs and festivals were copied from ancient idolatrous nations, this fact was already known among the Muslims as the Holy Qur'an had revealed this 1,400 years ago. The holy Qur'an made this fact clear when it says:

"... O People of the Book! Exceed not in your religion the bounds (of what is proper), trespassing beyond the truth, nor follow the vain desires of people who went wrong in times gone by – who misled many, and strayed (themselves) from the even way" (Holy Qur'an, 5:77)

We gather from the above verse of the Qur'an that Christians, after they had followed the culture of the Europeans, have committed two major errors, which have distorted and destroyed their religion. These two errors are:

(1) Exaggeration in their religion:

The Christians exaggerate in their beliefs, the teachings of the Old Testament are clear and understood. These teachings emphasized the belief of the Oneness of the Creator and that salvation was achieved through obedience and submission to that Creator. Yet the Christians, by forging the concept and the belief in Trinity – One God in three different persons – also elevated the man they call Jesus Christ to the position of the Almighty God. Thus for the majority of the Christians, the man Jesus Christ is God. They also went on to say that, Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came and died on the Cross for the sins of the World.

Their exaggeration did not end there but it continues to flood our minds with strange things when they claim that this Son of God is the only "begotten son of God", and yet that God has no wife. Perhaps, he had simply fallen in love with that beautiful virgin, Mary of the tribe of Levi in Israel. This Son of God died and was buried and after three days he rose from the dead and so he conquered death, the act that to the Christians symbolizes that the man Jesus Christ was God in flesh. All of these exaggerations and deviations of the Christians will be replied to and explained in detail later in this book".

In fact, there are many exaggerations made by Christians but it will take us long to mention all of them. Apart from that, they change the word of God; they change the Bible and revise it in accordance with their desires and whims. As for their changing of words of the scriptures, this crime is still going on and I shall prove this when discussing the authenticity of the Bible in the coming pages, God willing.

This is what is referred to in the verse of the Holy Qur'an above as the exaggeration in the matter of religion, unjustly and wrongly. In fact, these exaggerations have made Christianity drift far away from being the religion founded by God, the Creator through Jesus Christ.

(2) Their imitation of the low desires of the ancient Pagan nations:

This is mentioned by the Holy Qur'an. It is true that the Christians have followed the low desires of the ancient Pagan nations. Today this reality which the Holy Qur'an had revealed has been proved by both Christian and non–Christian scholars of history and religion.

The process of innovating things and attributing them to Jesus Christ has become a routine in Christendom. Father Christmas or Santa Claus was 'invented' in 1850 nearly 140 years ago when a man dressed in red and white appeared in the streets of England for the first time. Thus, in going back to the history of Christianity, you will see and realize that the Christians of the early Church had borrowed many beliefs and rituals from paganism mainly from the ancient Pagan nations i.e. Greek, Egypt, Rome, Persia and India exactly as it was pointed out by the Holy Qur'an about 1,400 years ago.

There is no record of the turkeys being eaten in England until 400 years ago, and thus the habit of eating and the excitement of buying turkeys in America and Europe has no historical relation with the Christmas festival. The Christmas cards, which swell the coffers of Post Offices, were first printed and introduced commercially in 1946.

The celebration of Christmas with all of these heathen excitement and pagan rituals has come to the world from the Roman Catholic Church. Although the majority of the new early Christians in Rome were converts from pagans, the Church had no right to allow or to borrow from them all of these abominations and pagan rituals and finally to make them legitimate in the name of Christ.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church ... the first evidence of the feast was from ancient Egypt... Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas" 3

This is what the Holy Qur'an has explained concerning the Christians as they borrowed most of their beliefs from the pagans and heathens. You will learn more about these facts in the coming pages of this book.

Here, briefly, I am presenting to you the nature of the ancient temple in Rome. This temple was the centre of worship for the Romans and the god worshipped there was the sun god, Apollo. It is interesting

to see that, modern Christianity have also borrowed their beliefs and rituals from this pagan temple of the sun god, Apollo.

The Temple of the Sun God, Apollo

This temple was the center of worship for the Ancient Romans and in particular His Majesty, King Constantine the Great. This Temple had its altar with its face towards the East; the chancel, the choir, the acolytes, the pages, the monks and the nuns, in short all the paraphernalia of a Catholic Cathedral is the image and remnant of the Temple of Apollo as its founder is the same Ruler of the Pagan Roman Empire.

Thus the Roman Catholic Church is the image and true picture of the ancient Pagan Temple of Rome headed by many ancient Kings of the Romans and finally by Constantine who allegedly converted to Christianity in 325 AD and became a corner stone for the spread of Christianity worldwide and for his pagan influences on Christianity.

The Sign of the Cross - Mithra and Christ

The sign of the Cross is also a legacy of the ancient era worship of the sun god called Mithra. Mithra was the sun god of ancient Persia. The Cross as a symbol is not something peculiar to Jesus' life or in Christianity but is a symbol of immemorial antiquity, far predating the Christian era. Almost in all ancient pagan religions there were different forms of sun worship, surprisingly with the Cross as its symbol.

The seasons of the year, depending on the position of the sun, have been divided into four parts – spring, summer, autumn and winter. If one divides the earth's orbit around the sun into four parts, it will form a Cross. Thus the sun worshippers here took the Cross as their symbol as it was the product of the movement of their sun god.

A brief comparative study between the god of the pagans, Mithra, the sun god of Persia and Jesus Christ, the Son of God or God of the Christians shows that these two different personalities have similar characteristics and close resemblance although they were both worshipped by different people in different ages. Mithra was the sun god as we have mentioned earlier and the Cross was his symbol. And according to the facts available in many historical documents, this sun god Mithra was also born of a Virgin on 25th of December exactly like Jesus Christ!

Mithra had also twelve disciples and finally he was buried in a tomb and rose again; he was called and identified as Saviour or Mediator by his worshippers and was sometimes figured as a Lamb who sacrificed his life for the salvation of mankind. These things are exactly what are being said by those who believe or worship Jesus Christ. Surely this is a strange thing!

Some historical sources from the history of Rome, Persia and England admit that the sacramental feasts

which resembles that of Jesus Christ done by the modern day Catholics were held in remembrance of Mithra, the sun god. After the religion of Mithra, the religion of a sun-god was adopted by the Romans, it then spread through the whole of Europe for it was the Romans who brought the concept of Mithraism to England and France and from there it spread throughout Europe.

Today, Archeologists and scientists have found the remains of the religion of Mithra in various places in England and in other parts of the European continent. In Ireland, a figure on a cross has been found, but the effigy wears the Iranian Persian regal crown and not the crown of thorns. This discovery has inspired us to believe that the sun god Mithra was also crucified on the cross but not with a crown of thorns on his head as it was in the case of Jesus Christ. Instead, his crown was a Persian regal crown.

It is an indisputable fact that modern Christianity originated from the ancient paganism of the Persians, Romans and other European countries.

In addition to this resemblance between ancient Mithraic paganism and modern Christianity, we see that the Mithraic religion of Ancient Persia and Rome instituted baptism as an important ritual for new converts. But this ancient baptism in Mithraism was performed by marking the forehead with a cross.

The worshippers also used to partake of a sacrament of a small wafer; it was a small cake, emblematic of the solar disc; these rituals are still a part of the Roman Catholic Church. The use that the cake is a clear proof that those concerned were the sun worshippers and pagans: today, this very small piece of cake or bread symbolizes the body of Jesus Christ in what is called Christianity (i.e. the sacrament).

These special rituals and the process of taking a special cake as symbol of the sun to the worshippers of the solar deity was known as Mizad. The word 'mizd' of the ancient Persia today has been transformed to the noun "Mass" in what is today part of Christian ritual.

The Holy Qur'an and Its Historical Facts

The Holy Qur'an has explained to us nearly 1,400 years ago that this Euro-centric Christianity was founded upon ancient paganism and so it is not fit for mankind to adopt it as religion. In elaborating this fact, the Holy Qur'an says:

".. And the Christians call Christ the Son of God. These are words from their mouth (In this) they but imitate what Unbelievers of old used to say, Allah's curse be on them how they deluded away from the truth ... " (Holy Qur'an, 9:30)

And this is what we hear daily – Jesus is the Son of God. This dogma asserts that Jesus is the Son of God in a special and exclusive sense but this dogma is not in conformity with the sayings and teachings of Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, the title "Son of God" has been used to signify "purity, piety, righteousness, and the one who

is closer to the Almighty Creator in submissiveness to his will. It has been used in the Bible to address many righteous people and Prophets of God.

Muslims do not believe that the Almighty Allah, the Creator has a son. To the Muslims, this belief is a blasphemy and paganism for it is obvious that the entire humanity belong to Him as his sons and daughters. Thus, the belief that "Jesus is the" only begotten Son of God, (begotten, not created) is paganism in its real sense.

Those who believe that Jesus is the only begotten son of God may believe so because Jesus was born without an earthly human father and at the time his mother was a Virgin. But this still cannot make him the only begotten Son of God as there are many miraculous personalities whose existence and being would then have been more divine than that of Jesus Christ. These personalities are Adam and Melchis'edec.

The Holy Qur'an speaks about the alleged divine sonship of Jesus Christ as follows:

"...Surely the likeness of (the creation) of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam, He, Allah created Adam from the clay and then said to him be, and he was..."(Holy Qur'an, 3:59)4

Last, we come to the creation of men of God like Melchis'edec who had no beginning, without an end, without father and mother, this type of creation is more miraculous than that of Jesus Christ.

Therefore the absence of a human father – as in the case of Jesus – does not make him to be the Son of God. If that was a criterion than Melchis'edec could be the most qualified to be the only begotten Son of God thousands of years before the coming of Jesus. It is my belief that Jesus Christ had his beginning (the day he was born in Bethlehem) and he had his end (if we were to accept what Christians believe about his death on the Cross).

The Bible speaks about the miraculous personalities who existed thousands of years before the birth of Jesus. It speaks about this Melchis'edec who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and according to the Holy Qur'an, the same Melchis'edec met with Moses by the Mediterranean Sea. He also met with Jesus in the River Jordan and other parts of the blessed land. The same Melchis'edec also met with Prophet Muhammad (S).

The word "Melchis'edec" comes from two Arabic words "Malak" which means "the angel" and the word "Sadik" which means "truthful" and so the word "Melchis'edec" with its English pronunciation would simply mean "The Truthful Angel". The Bible speaks about this miraculous personality as follows:

"...For this Melchis'edec king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him... (he was) King of righteousness, and after that also king of Salem, which is, King if Peace; without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest continually...Now consider

how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils..." Hebrews. 7:1-4.

My dear readers, if we think properly after reading this passage of the Bible, we can conclude by saying that, Allah, the Creator of all things can create anything the way He wills and in His own style. He can create something from nothing as He had made the whole entire universe out of nothing. And so the creation of Jesus Christ born by a virgin woman is not a big thing to Allah, even though it is a great miracle for mankind.

That likeness of the creation and the miraculous birth of Christ can be compared to the creation of the angels, Adam, Melchis'edec or to the creation of the universe itself. This universe was created out of nothing. When there was nothing, Allah, the Almighty created something. It is this universe full of things that signifies His Glory and Honour, and this is indeed the greatest miracle of our existence.

- 1. Ref: "The New Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Knowledge:. page 163.
- 2. Refer: "The Golden Bough" pp. 721-722.
- 3. Catholic Encyclopedia, under the heading- Christmas- 1911 Edition.
- 4. The Holy Qur'an mentioned about three types of creation of human and angelic beings; Adam was created by Allah through the medium of clay. Although his creation was done using the medium of clay, this creation was not a mechanical process to the Almighty Allah. He, Allah had only to say to the clay "be Adam" and immediately he was, without a father or mother.

This creation would seem to be more miraculous than the creation of Jesus Christ whereby in his creation there was a mother. Then we come to "the creation of the Angels", Allah created these beings without material bodies and without father nor mother. The creation of angels is therefore, more miraculous than that of Jesus Christ.

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